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Thieves steal 14,000 feet of conductor cable from storage yard

BPA offers up to \$1,000 for information

**Crime Witness Program
Bonneville Power Administration**

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BURLINGTON, Wash. -- The same sunny, warm May weather that has been attracting people to the outdoors has, unfortunately, marked the beginning of crime season. The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons who recently stole conductor cable from a storage yard near Burlington, Washington.

It is suspected that several individuals may be involved in two separate thefts of conductor cable at the BPA storage yard near the intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 20. Construction materials are being stored for the Monroe-Echo Lake 500,000-volt transmission line.

Sometime over the past two weeks of good weather, approximately 9,000 feet of aluminum conductor cable was stolen, valued at \$28,000. The Skagit County Sheriff Department is investigating a second incident at the same site that occurred the night of May 15. Another 5,000 feet of cable worth \$13,000 was expertly cut from two reels and hauled away on a tandem-wheel truck.

“Unless these criminals are caught soon,” says BPA Security Specialist Gail Dreckman, “we are concerned that the problem could persist. Any more theft from this site will keep us from bringing the new line into service in a timely manner.”

Theft, vandalism and illegal dumping are ongoing problems throughout BPA’s transmission system, costing the agency over \$1 million each year. These costs inevitably get passed on to customers and ratepayers.

In an effort to discourage this kind of costly, dangerous and destructive behavior, BPA is offering cash rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators under its neighborhood watch-style Crime Witness Program. Informants can call toll free 1-800-437-2744 and caller’s identity will be kept confidential.

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